



## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **Office of the Secretary**

### **34 CFR Subtitles A and B**

### **Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Semiannual regulatory agenda.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Education publishes a semiannual agenda of Federal regulatory and deregulatory actions. The agenda is issued under the authority of section 4(b) of Executive Order 12866, "Regulatory Planning and Review." The purpose of the agenda is to encourage more effective public participation in the regulatory process by providing the public with early information about the regulatory actions we plan to take.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions or comments related to specific regulations listed in this agenda should be directed to the agency contact listed for the regulations. Other questions or comments on this agenda should be directed to LaTanya Cannady, Program Specialist, Emily Fridman, Attorney, Rachel Disario, Attorney, or Hilary Malawer, Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Department of Education, Room 6C128, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-2241; telephone: LaTanya Cannady (202) 401-9676, Emily Fridman (202) 453-7421, Rachel Disario (202) 401-0897, or Hilary Malawer (202) 401-6148. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf or a text telephone may call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 4(b) of Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993, requires the Department of Education (ED) to publish, at a time and in a manner specified by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, an agenda of all regulations under development or review. The Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 602(a), requires ED to publish, in October and April of each year, a regulatory flexibility agenda.

The regulatory flexibility agenda may be combined with any other agenda that satisfies the statutory requirements (5 U.S.C. 605(a)). In compliance with the Executive order and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Secretary publishes this agenda.

For each set of regulations listed, the agenda provides the title of the document, the type of document, a citation to any rulemaking or other action taken since publication of the most recent agenda, and planned dates of future rulemaking. In addition, the agenda provides the following information:

- An abstract that includes a description of the problem to be addressed, any principal alternatives being considered, and potential costs and benefits of the action.
- An indication of whether the planned action is likely to have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601(6)).
- A reference to where a reader can find the current regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations.
- A citation of legal authority.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the contact person at ED from whom a reader can obtain additional information regarding the planned action.

In accordance with ED's Principles for Regulating listed in its regulatory plan (78 FR 1361, published January 8, 2013), ED is committed to regulations that improve the quality and equality of services to its customers. ED will regulate only if absolutely necessary and then in the most flexible, most equitable, least burdensome way possible.

Interested members of the public are invited to comment on any of the items listed in this agenda that they believe are not consistent with the Principles for Regulating. Members of the public are also invited to comment on any uncompleted actions in this agenda that ED plans to review under section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 610) to determine their economic impact on small entities.

This publication does not impose any binding obligation on ED with regard to any specific item in the agenda. ED may elect not to pursue any of the regulatory actions listed here, and regulatory action in addition to the items listed is not precluded. Dates of future regulatory actions are subject to revision in subsequent agendas.

#### Electronic Access to This Document

The entire Unified Agenda is published electronically and is available online at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov).

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Office of Postsecondary Education—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
244	Borrower Defense	1840–AD19

<b>Department of Education (ED)</b>	<b>Completed Actions</b>
<b>Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)</b>	

#### **244. BORROWER DEFENSE**

**Legal Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.

**Abstract:** The Department is establishing regulations for determining which acts or omissions of an institution of higher education a borrower may assert as a defense to repayment of a loan made under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Federal Direct Loan) Program and identifying the consequences of such borrower defenses for borrowers, institutions, and the Secretary.

#### **Completed:**

Reason	Date	FR Cite
NPRM	06/16/16	81 FR 39329
Final Action	11/01/16	81 FR 75926

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required:** Yes

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**RIN:** 1840–AD19

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